

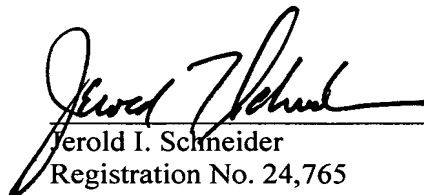


**REMARKS**

Claims 1 through 22 are pending. The specification has been amended to place the application in more conventional U.S. format, and the claims have been amended to eliminate multiple dependency and present claims of varying scope. Favorable consideration is solicited. Should the Examiner be of the opinion that a personal interview will expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call Applicants' attorney at the following telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

PIPER RUDNICK LLP

  
Jerold I. Schneider  
Registration No. 24,765

1200 Nineteenth Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20036-2412  
Telephone No. (202) 861-3900  
Facsimile No. (202) 223-2085